Sheela Ahmed

Collette Caton

FYW: Writing Seminar

7 October 2015

RIT’s Focus on Students’ Lives and Values

The Rochester Institute of Technology is a college with the main goal of educating others. The college has the main goal of helping students explore their interests and gain knowledge that can help them become successful and enjoy their futures. Through the welcoming process of Orientation, emails, magazines and newsletters, and the general environment of learning, RIT focuses on students and their interests. The RIT community values students’ welfare and interests and focuses on educating them and encouraging them to become a part of the community.

At RIT, students are accepted after a thorough look at their applications. The staff at RIT who read applications focus on students who are determined and knowledgeable with their future careers and occupations. They value and admire students who are determined and willing to learn and find their passions as well as explore other areas. For these students, RIT offers numerous [things] such as live events, extracurricular activities, counseling, tutoring and entertainment. Professors and other members of staff offer their help and support to each and every student because the students are the essential reason for the university to be what it is.

When new students are accepted through an in-depth application process, they are offered aid by the entire RIT community to fit into a routine and become a part of the community. For example, before the new semester begins in the fall, each incoming freshman or transfer student is mailed letters and a booklet titled “RIT Orientation Guide.” In this booklet published by RIT staff form the Center of Orientation and Transition, schedules and lists are shown to inform the incoming students of Orientation and what needs to be completed before classes start. It also allows the students to explore the college and see what is offered throughout the entire campus. With this booklet, RIT is helping out incoming freshman and transfer students adapt to the environment and make the college experience more entertaining by providing games and discussions throughout the Orientation week. This booklet was made specifically for incoming students and further emphasizes RIT’s values for the students and helping them succeed. The university not only wants students to enjoy the campus but also be knowledgeable of anything occurring on campus. The booklet shows a schedule that contains different seminars and sessions on college life and what is offered at RIT. With these opportunities, students can become a part of the RIT community both academically and socially.

During the school year, students are given opportunities to explore the campus and meet new people. There are guest lectures being held almost every week and well-known individuals visiting the campus for a certain day for an event or meeting with students and staff. Occasionally, there have been authors of best-selling novels that have visited for book signings and other meetings. Recently, on September 25th, the author of Camp Good Days, Lou Buttino, visited for a book signing. There was an email sent out to all RIT students informing them of the event. This shows the level of communication that the RIT community is willing to take to gather students together and have fun. The book signing was an event held on campus to give students a break and enjoy the campus and meet new people, and the email was sent so more students would be informed and be able to attend.

Students are also given opportunities to explore through extracurricular activities like clubs and sports. There are nearly 300 clubs and organizations that exist at RIT and they are filled with academics, comedy, community service and athletics. These clubs help students meet other students and staff and use their social skills to help people around them and simply have fun. Academic clubs like PiRIT combine the skills of education with undergraduate research and campus events. On the other side, clubs like the Anime Club lean towards hobbies and social communication amongst students. All of these clubs and organizations provide students with more than just academics, and it’s the same way with sports and athletics. Every sport that is played here teaches students not only the skills to succeed in the game but also to succeed in their respected majors. Discipline, respect and honesty are all taught in these sports, even though it may not be direct, and students can apply these tools in their everyday lives. The RIT community provides numerous opportunities for students to learn how to interact and communicate with other people. [I don’t know how to word this last sentence.]

Along with clubs and organizations, students can explore the college and the community by reading newsletters and magazines that are published. RIT’s University Magazine and Reporter Magazine are two examples, along with the RIT Newsletter that is emailed to students through RIT’s Message Center. Although some students don’t enjoy the constant emails filling their inbox, they do contain important information about certain events being held on campus, like the book signing stated earlier. When it comes to magazines, authors write articles revolving around the university and the entire Rochester community. An example is when Mindy Mozer, the editor for the University Magazine, wrote an article titled “Brooklyn Tech Companies turn to RIT Talent.” In this article, she wrote about how companies in New York City are looking towards RIT graduates for job positions due to the experience and level of knowledge they have because of co-ops and internships. She targeted her article towards RIT students, reporting that RIT offers excellent learning activities and environments that allow students to not only learn but understand their majors. This increase in experience and knowledge can lead to incredible opportunities and situations such as being hired in New York City.

Classrooms and lectures are made certainly to students’ benefits. The classes are the essential foundation of any university but at RIT, professors and staff focus a majority of their time on helping students to understand what they’re learning. Teaching assistants are available to help students whenever they need it, as well as tutors and advisors, who can help students one-on-one understand concepts and study for exams. If any student is struggling either academically or socially, they are able to contact many people, including advisors and counselors. But this is available at almost every college. What makes RIT different is their unique sense of unity and communication amongst the students and staff. Having 5 campuses around the world, the RIT community contains people of different races, ethnicities, religions, ages and interests which is different from most colleges. Students can meet new people and explore interests they ever even thought of and they have access to help whenever they need it which. This provides a lot of aid and further shows the time and effort put into helping students at RIT achieve what they want.

The RIT community values the students and their values more than anything, and these actions show it. They offer students help and support and provide numerous opportunities for them to explore and meet new people. With guest lectures, emails, magazines and events held for new students, each RIT student feels a part of the RIT community the second they land on campus for the first time. This shows the emphasis RIT places on its students to become a part of the community both academically and socially.